Decline in Water Table

6?5. SHRI JAGMOHAN: WB1 the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be, pleased to state:

(a) whether the water table has been falling rapidly in several States in India;

(b) whether in some areas of lamil Nadu, the water table has gone down by as much as 30 metres or to during the last ten years;

(c) whether tlie recent steep fall in the ground water level even in urban areas like Delhi, is causing grave hardship to the residents;

(d) whether Government haVe carried out a comprehensive ground water survey on the lines of USDA Studies; and

(e) what concrete measures are bein« taken to meet the serious situation that is developing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON); (a) Gradual fail in ground water level has been observed in localised pockets in the country.

(b) No, Sir. On the basis of the observations recorded by Central Giound Water Board through its network of ob-servation stations in Tamil' Nadu, the maximum fall in water table upto 18.3 m only has been observed at Vadavali in Coimbatore district.

(c) No rapid decline in ground water ievel is observed in Delhi. However, observations hav© shown that ground water levels have declined by 6—8 metres ia Mehrauli block, 1—5 metres in Alipur, Najafgarh, Nangloi and city block and 1—2 metres in. Shahadra block Extress pumage of ground water laregly for domestic water supply could case hardship.

(d) No, Sir,

(e) A model Bill has been circulated by Union Government for enactment ol suitable legislation by State Governments Union Territories for regulation and controlled deelopment of ground water. Also $_a$ scheme has been formulated by Central Ground Waster Board to assist States in ground water reclwrge.

Strengthening of the banks of major rivers

656. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of WA1ER RESOURCES be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government propose to strengthen the banks of major rivers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the funds released by Government during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE. IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Flood Control being a State subject, funding and management Of flood corrrol schemes including strengthening oi' banks of rivers are done by tbe States themselves from their own resources according to their own priorities. The Central Government renders assistance in works that are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

(b) The approved plan $_0$utlays under flood conrol sector j_n State Plan during last three years is enclosed as Statement.